

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 5-7, 9-16, 20, 21, 27-29 and 33-44 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 22-26 and 30-32 are canceled, claims 11, 20, 28 and 35 are amended, and claims 39-44 are added.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

Claims 22, 23, 30 and 31 were all indicated to contain allowable subject matter. The indication of allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation.

Original claim 22 has been rewritten as new independent claim 39. Original claim 23 has been rewritten as new claim 40, which depends from claim 39. Claims 22 and 23 are then cancelled. Allowable claim 30 has been rewritten as new independent claim 41. Claim 31 has been rewritten as new claim 42, which depends from claim 41. Claims 30 and 31 are then cancelled. Because new claims 39-42 are allowable claims 22, 23, 30 and 31, rewritten into independent form, it is believed that these claims are allowable, and that the addition of new claims 39-42 does not raise any new issues which would require further consideration and/or search. Entry of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claim 26 originally depended from independent claim 20, and from claims 24 and 25. Original claim 26 has now been rewritten as new independent claim 43. Claims 24-26 have been cancelled. Independent claim 43 has exactly the same scope as the previously pending version of claim 26, which also included the features of claims 20, 24 and 25. For this reason, it is believed that the addition of new claim 43 does not raise any new issues which would require further consideration and/or search. Entry is respectfully requested.

Similarly, original claim 32 has been rewritten as new independent claim 44. Claim 32 is then cancelled. Because new claim 44 has exactly the same scope of the previously pending version of claim 32, it is believed that the addition of new claim 44 does not raise any new issues which would require further consideration and/or search. Entry is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to claims 22 and 23 because of an informality appearing in claim 22. By this Amendment, claims 22 and 23 have been cancelled. Thus, it is believed that the objection is moot.

The Office Action rejected claims 3, 5-7, 9-16 and 20-38 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Specifically, the Office Action objects to the wording of a portion of these claims which describes how a frictional force acts to resist rotation of the pivotal plate relative to the fixed plate. By this Amendment, independent claims 20, 28 and 35 are slightly amended to provide a more definite description of this frictional force and how it acts. Accordingly, entry of the claim amendments and withdrawal of the rejection under §112 are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claim 35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Wang (United Kingdom Patent No. 2,266,920). Because Wang fails to disclose or suggest all the features of claim 35, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 35 recites a hinge structure for a display device which includes a fixed plate, a pivotal plate, a rotation shaft coupled to the fixed and pivotal plates, a cylindrical braking housing surrounding the rotation shaft and coupled to the fixed plate, a cylindrical braking member located between the rotation shaft and the braking housing, and a washer located between the pivotal plate and an end of the braking housing.

An example of a structure as recited in claim 35 is shown in Figure 1 of the present application. As shown in Figure 1, a braking housing is coupled to a fixed plate 20, and a braking member 40 is inserted into the braking housing 50. A rotational shaft 30 is inserted inside the braking member, and the rotational shaft is fixed to the pivotal plate 10. A washer 75 is located between the pivotal plate and an end of the braking housing 50. This structure is also shown in Figure 2 of the present application, which shows the washer 75 located between a shaft supporting portion 12 of the pivotal plate 10, and an end of the braking housing 50. The washer 75 acts to restrict noise and abrasion which is caused when the pivotal plate 10 rotates with respect to the braking housing 50.

The Office Action asserts that a structure as recited in claim 35 is shown in Figure 1 of the Wang reference. The Office Action asserts that element 24 corresponds to the washer recited in claim 35. It is respectfully submitted that the element 24 is not a washer, and it is not located between a pivotal plate and an end of the braking housing. Page 3, lines 25-28 of the

Wang reference clearly indicate that a second groove 27 is formed on the braking housing 20, and that a C-ring 24 is inserted into that groove 27 to secure the braking housing 20 to the plate 22. Thus, Wang discloses that element 24 is a C-ring used for securing the braking the housing to the pivotal plate 22. Element 24 is not a washer. Further, the C-ring 24 in the Wang reference is merely used for attachment purposes. Because of how it is located, it cannot act to reduce noise or abrasion.

Further, because of the way that the braking housing 20 in the Wang structure is fixed to the pivotal plate 22, the two elements cannot rotate with respect to each other. For this reason, there would be no reason to include a washer between an end of the braking housing 20 and the pivotal plate 22. Because no rotation will occur, there is no need to insert a washer at this location.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 35 is allowable over Wang. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 5-7, 9-16, 20, 21, 24-29, 32-34 and 36-38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wang, in view of Okada (U.S. Patent No. 5,109,370). As noted above, claims 24-26 and 32 have been cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims is moot. Because Wang and Okada fail to disclose or suggest all the features of the remaining claims, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, independent claim 20 is amended to incorporate the features of the previously pending versions of claims 24, 25 and 26. Claims 24-26 are then cancelled. The amended version of claim 20 now recites a hinge structure for a display device which includes a

stopper fixed to a first end of a rotation shaft wherein a projection on the stopper is received in a groove in the stopper guide of a braking housing. Claim 20 further recites a washer located between the stopper and the braking housing, wherein the washer has a non-uniform profile with a cut-out that corresponds to the projection receiving groove of the stopper guide.

A structure as recited in claim 20 is shown in Figure 1 of the present application. As shown therein, a stopper 80 has a projection 81 which is received in a groove 52 of a stopper guide 51 of the braking housing 50. A washer 70 is located between the stopper and the braking housing. The washer has a non-uniform profile with a cut-out that corresponds to the projection receiving groove 52 of the stopper guide. The first washer 70 acts to restrict noise and abrasion which occurs as the stopper 80 rotates relative to the braking housing 50. The cut-out is necessary so that the projection 81 on the stopper 80 can rotate relative to the braking housing.

The Office Action asserts that a similar structure would result if the rotation limiting structure shown in Okada was incorporated into the Wang hinge structure. As explained in our response to the previous Office Action, Applicants believe that it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to selectively combine features of the Okada and Wang references to arrive at a structure as recited in independent claim 20. However, even if these two references were selectively combined, it is respectfully submitted that the combined structure would still lack the washer recited in claim 20.

The Office Action asserts that the washer 12 corresponds to the washer recited in claim 20. However, claim 20 specifically states that the washer is located between the stopper and a

braking housing which includes a stopper guide. In the Okada structure, the stopper would correspond to element 13, and the stopper guide would correspond to element 14 with its associated shoulders 14b and 14c. As clearly shown in Figure 1 of the Okada reference, the washer 12 is not located between these two elements.

In addition, claim 20 recites that the washer has a non-uniform profile with a cut-out that corresponds to the projection receiving groove of a stopper guide. The Office Action asserts that the projection 12b corresponds to the recited cut-out. However, the projection 12b is a projection, not a cut-out. In addition, the projection 12b is intended to be mounted in a key way of the rotation shaft. As a result, it would not align with the projection receiving groove of the stopper guide.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 is allowable over even the improper combination of Wang and Okada. Claims 3, 5-7 and 21 depend from claim 20 and are allowable for at least the same reasons and for the additional features that they recite.

Independent claim 28 is also directed to a hinge structure for a display device. By this Amendment, the features of claim 32 have been incorporated into independent claim 28, and claim 32 has been cancelled. The amended version of claim 28 now recites that first and second washers are located between the pivotal plates and ends of the braking housings. As discussed above in connection with independent claim 35, the Wang structure lacks any washer which would be located between a pivotal plate and an end of the braking housing. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 28 is also allowable over Wang and Okada for the same reasons

discussed above in connection with claim 35. Claims 9-16, 29, 33 and 34 depend from claim 28 and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

As discussed above, it is believed that independent claim 35 is allowable over Wang because of the washer recited in claim 35. Claims 36-38 depend from claim 35 and are allowable for at least the same reasons and for the additional features that they recite.

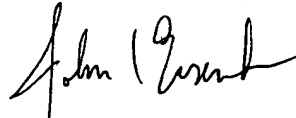
In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the rejection over Wang, in view of Okada, is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

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